



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 03-1503

PANELISTS SET FOR PUBLIC FORUM ON IMPROVING ADMINISTRATION OF E-RATE PROGRAM

WHEN: May 8, 2003 ~ 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room (Room TW-C305)
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554

WHAT: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy hosts public forum to strengthen compliance and oversight over the schools and libraries program of the federal universal service support mechanisms, often called the “E-rate” program. Commissioner Abernathy chairs the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. All Commissioners have been invited to participate.

Panel 1 – Preventing Program Waste, Fraud and Abuse

- ❖ Greg Weisiger, Virginia Department of Education
- ❖ Charlie Parker, State Library of Florida
- ❖ Margaret Greene, BellSouth
- ❖ Orin Heend, Funds for Learning
- ❖ George Craven, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16

Panel 2 – Addressing Competitive Bidding Process

- ❖ Gary Rawson, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
- ❖ Barbara Stoll, Sprint
- ❖ Tony Wening, Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet)
- ❖ Toni Pickle, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative
- ❖ Dr. Alan Whitworth, Jefferson County (Louisville, KY) Public Schools
- ❖ John Mitchell, Seattle Public Schools

On April 23, 2003, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FCC 03-101, released April 30, 2003) that significantly streamlines the E-rate program, and strengthens its compliance and enforcement features, including debarring persons convicted of criminal violation or held civilly liable for misconduct arising from participation in the program for three years and where circumstances warrant, for a longer period. The forum is the next step in a comprehensive reform effort to strengthen the program's competitive bidding features, and further reduce the chances of program waste and fraud.

For further information, contact Greg Lipscomb, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.